

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-51: (Cancelled)

52. (New) A pre-filled ice cube bag containing freezable material in a non-frozen condition, the bag comprising:

two sheet-shaped foil layers having substantially identical geometrical configurations and defining an outer periphery, each of the two sheet-shaped foil layers defining a surface area of at least 75 cm²; and

a peripheral joint extending along said outer periphery of said foil layers, which peripheral joint joins said foil layers together mainly overlapping each other and defining a sealed inner chamber in which said freezable material is hermetically contained; wherein the inner chamber defines an inner volume of at least 50 cm³ when the inner chamber is inflated to a maximum inflation at a pressure of at least 0.5 m water column pressure; wherein the inner chamber is divided into two or more ice cube compartments defined by separate joints between the foil layers; and wherein the freezable material is contained in each of the compartments so as to fill between 80% and 90% of said inner volume in a non-frozen condition, whereby the freezable material is permitted to expand within the compartments upon freezing without tearing the bag.

53. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein said freezable material is sterilized water.

54. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the freezable material comprises an aqueous foodstuff.

55. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein each ice cube compartment has a sub-volume that does not exceed 25 cm³.

56. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the sheet-shaped foil layers are produced from a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, aluminium, and combinations of polyethylene and aluminum.

57. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the inner chamber defines more than 2 ice cube compartments.

58. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the inner chamber defines at least two sub-chambers, each of which defines at least two ice cube compartments.

59. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the peripheral joint and the separate joints are glued

60. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the peripheral joint and the separate joints are welded.

61. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the separate joints have a configuration selected from the group consisting of one or more of circular, elliptical, linear, triangular, rectangular, polygonal, curved, and combinations thereof.

62. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the separate joints define a plurality of central non-joined areas.

63. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the two sheet-shaped foil layers are substantially rectangular.

64. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the two sheet-shaped foil layers are of the same foil material and are of the same thickness.

65. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the two sheet-shaped foil layers are of different foil materials.

66. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag of claim 52, wherein the two sheet-shaped foil layers are of different thicknesses.

67. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein the first foil layer has a larger thickness than the second foil layer, and wherein the first foil layer is pre-shaped with recesses corresponding to the ice cube compartments.

68. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, further comprising an incision at the outer periphery of the foil layers, the incision being configured to indicate a tearing point for the ice cube bag.

69. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein at least one of the sheet-shaped foil layers includes a foil extension configured as a gripping flap for the manipulation of the pre-filled ice cube bag.

70. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 69, wherein said flap has a central aperture configured to form a handle for the manipulation of the pre-filled ice cube bag.

71. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 52, wherein each of said separate joints establishes a connection between the two sheet-shaped foil layers such that when the foil layers are subject to a separating force at a particular separate joint, the connection provides a tearing or a perforation in one of the foil layers along the periphery of the particular separate joint.

72. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 71, wherein said separate joints are spaced so that each of the separate joints, when providing the tearing or the perforation of one of the foil layers, provides an indication for a tearing line in one of the foil layers.

73. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 72, wherein a factor calculated as an individual interior joining area expressed in square millimeters divided by a circumference or a perimeter, measured in millimeters, of the same joining area, is between 0.025 mm and 0.5 mm.

74. (New) The pre-filled ice cube bag according to claim 73, wherein each of said separate joints has an area-related extension corresponding to the area of a circle with a diameter between 0.1 mm and 5 mm.

75. (New) An ice cube packaging assembly, comprising:

an external, sealed, gas proof package; and

a pre-filled ice cube bag contained within the package, the bag comprising:

two sheet-shaped foil layers having substantially identical geometrical configurations and defining an outer periphery, each of the two sheet-shaped foil layers defining a surface area of at least 75 cm²;

a peripheral joint extending along said outer periphery of said foil layers, which peripheral joint joins said foil layers together mainly overlapping each other and defining a sealed inner chamber in which said freezable material is hermetically contained; wherein the inner chamber defines an inner volume of at least 50 cm³ when the inner chamber is inflated to a maximum inflation at a pressure of at least 0.5 m water column pressure; wherein the inner chamber is divided into two or more ice cube compartments defined by separate joints between the foil layers; and

freezable material in a non-frozen condition contained within the ice cube compartments and filling between 80% and 90% of said inner volume, whereby the freezable material is permitted to expand upon freezing without tearing the bag.

76. (New) The ice cube packaging assembly according to claim 75, wherein the sealed gas-proof package is air filled.

77. (New) The ice cube packaging assembly according to claim 75, wherein the sealed gas-proof package is evacuated.

78. (New) The ice cube packaging assembly according to claim 75, wherein the sealed gas-proof package contains a plurality of pre-filled ice cube bags.